

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data transfer process apparatus which controls a data transfer in a device, comprising:

status obtaining means for obtaining status  
5 information about a status of said device;  
message obtaining means for obtaining a message according to the status information obtained by said status obtaining means:

transmission data generation means for generating  
10 transmission data according to the message and destination information indicating a message destination;

electronic mail transmission means for transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data  
15 generated by said transmission data generation means;

data generation means for generating data that indicates a setting screen displayed on an external apparatus, for setting said destination information; and

20 data transmission means for transmitting the data generated by said data generation means to the external apparatus.

2. The data transfer process apparatus according  
25 to claim 1, further comprising

destination information storage means for storing information indicating a destination of electronic mail

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and information to be added to the electronic mail as said destination information.

3. The data transfer process apparatus according  
5 to claim 1, wherein

said electronic mail transmission means transmits the electronic mail to a client apparatus through a mail server apparatus connected to a communications medium.

10 4. The data transfer process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said data transfer process apparatus is a network board connected to a printer; and

15 said message obtaining means obtains the message from the printer.

5. A data transfer process apparatus which controls a data transfer in a device, comprising:  
20 information holding means for holding setting information set for transmission of an electronic mail containing a message in a natural language depending on status information about the device;

data generation means for generating data  
25 indicating a setting screen of said setting information displayed on an external apparatus; and

data transmission means for transmitting the data

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generated by said data generation means to the external apparatus.

6. The data transfer process apparatus according  
5 to claim 5, further comprising:

setting information obtaining means for obtaining  
setting information transmitted from said external  
apparatus; and

10 setting information holding means for holding the  
setting information obtained by said setting  
information obtaining means.

7. The data transfer process apparatus according  
to claim 5, wherein

15 said setting information includes information  
indicating a condition of transmitting said electronic  
mail.

8. The data transfer process apparatus according  
20 to claim 5, wherein

said setting information includes information  
indicating a reply destination of said electronic mail.

9. The data transfer process apparatus according  
25 to claim 5, wherein

said setting screen sets a pair of a reply address  
of said electronic mail and a condition of transmitting

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said electronic mail.

10. The data transfer process apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

5       said message relates to a supplement of  
expendables used in the device, an exchange of  
expendables used in the device, or a process status of  
the device.

10       11. The data transfer process apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

      said data transfer process apparatus is a network  
board connected to a printer.

15       12. A data transfer process apparatus which controls a data transfer in a device, comprising:

      status obtaining means for obtaining status  
information about a status of said device;

      message obtaining means for obtaining a message  
20   according to the status information obtained by said  
status obtaining means:

      storage means for storing destination information  
indicating a destination of an electronic mail;

      transmission data generation means for generating  
25   transmission data according to the message and the  
destination information, and adding reply destination  
information indicating a reply destination of the

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electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and  
electronic mail transmission means for  
transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data  
generated by said transmission data generation means.

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13. The data transfer process apparatus according  
to claim 12, further comprising:

data generation means for generating data that  
indicates a setting screen displayed on an external  
10 apparatus, for setting the destination information and  
the reply destination information; and

data transmission means for transmitting the data  
generated by said data generation means to the external  
apparatus.

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14. The data transfer process apparatus according  
to claim 12, wherein

said storage means stores a reply address of  
electronic mail.

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15. The data transfer process apparatus according  
to claim 12, wherein

said data transfer process apparatus is a network  
board connected to a printer.

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16. A device capable of communicating with an  
external apparatus, comprising:

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status obtaining means for obtaining status  
information about a status of said device;

message obtaining means for obtaining a message  
according to the status information obtained by said

5 status obtaining means:

transmission data generation means for generating  
transmission data according to destination information  
indicating a message and a message destination;

10 electronic mail transmission means for  
transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data  
generated by said transmission data generation means;

data generation means for generating data which is  
displayed on the external apparatus and indicates a  
setting screen for setting the destination information;

15 and

data transmission means for transmitting the data  
generated by said data generation means to the external  
apparatus.

20 17. The device according to claim 16, further  
comprising

destination information storage means for storing  
information indicating a destination of electronic mail  
and information to be added to the electronic mail as

25 the destination information.

18. The device according to claim 16, wherein

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said electronic mail transmission means transmits the electronic mail to a client apparatus through a mail server apparatus connected to said communications medium.

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19. The device according to claim 16, wherein said device is a printer.

20. A data transfer process apparatus in a device,  
10 which controls a data transfer in the device,  
comprising:

information holding means for holding setting  
information set for transmission of an electronic mail  
containing a message in a natural language depending on  
15 status information about the device;

data generation means for generating data  
indicating a setting screen of the setting information  
displayed on an external apparatus; and

data transmission means for transmitting the data  
20 generated by said data generation means to the external  
apparatus.

21. The device according to claim 20, further  
comprising:

25 setting information obtaining means for obtaining  
setting information transmitted from the external  
apparatus; and

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setting information holding means for holding the  
setting information obtained by said setting  
information obtaining means.

5           22. The device according to claim 20, wherein  
            said setting information includes information  
            indicating a condition of transmitting the electronic  
            mail.

10           23. The device according to claim 20, wherein  
            said setting information includes information  
            indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail.

15           24. The device according to claim 20, wherein  
            said setting screen sets a pair of a reply address  
            of the electronic mail and a condition of transmitting  
            the electronic mail.

20           25. The device according to claim 20, wherein  
            said message relates to a supplement of  
            expendables used in said device, an exchange of  
            expendables used in said device, or a process status of  
            said device.

25           26. The device according to claim 20, wherein  
            said device is a printer.

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27. A device capable of communicating with an external apparatus, comprising:

status obtaining means for obtaining status information about a status of said device;

5 message obtaining means for obtaining a message according to the status information obtained by said status obtaining means:

storage means for storing destination information indicating a destination of an electronic mail;

10 transmission data generation means for generating transmission data according to the message and the destination information, and adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and

15 electronic mail transmission means for transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated by said transmission data generation means.

28. The device according to claim 27, further comprising:

data generation means for generating data that indicates a setting screen displayed on the external apparatus, for setting the destination information and the reply destination information; and

25 data transmission means for transmitting the data generated by said data generation means to the external apparatus.

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29. The device according to claim 27, wherein  
said storage means stores a reply address of  
electronic mail.

5 30. The device according to claim 27, wherein  
said device is a printer.

31. A status notifying method for notification of  
status information about a device by electronic mail,  
10 comprising:

an information holding steps of holding setting  
information set for transmission of an electronic mail  
containing a message in a natural language depending on  
status information about the device;

15 a data generating step of generating data  
indicating a setting screen of the setting information  
displayed on an external apparatus; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the data  
generated by said data generating step to the external  
20 apparatus.

32. The status notifying method according to claim  
31, further comprising:

a setting information obtaining step of obtaining  
25 setting information transmitted from the external  
apparatus; and

a setting information holding step of holding the

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setting information obtained in said setting  
information obtaining step.

33. The status notifying method according to claim  
5 31, wherein  
said setting information includes information  
indicating a condition of transmitting the electronic  
mail.

10 34. The status notifying method according to claim  
31, wherein  
said setting information includes information  
indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail.

15 35. The status notifying method according to claim  
31, wherein  
said setting screen sets a pair of a reply address  
of the electronic mail and a condition of transmitting  
the electronic mail.

20 36. The status notifying method according to claim  
31, wherein  
said message relates to a supplement of  
expendables used in the device, an exchange of  
25 expendables used in the device, or a process status of  
the device.

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37. The status notifying method according to claim  
31, wherein  
said device is a printer.

5 38. A status notifying method for notification of  
status information about a device by electronic mail,  
comprising:

- a state obtaining step of obtaining status  
information about a status of the device;
- 10 a message obtaining step of obtaining a message  
according to the status information obtained in said  
state obtaining step:
- a storing step of storing destination information  
indicating a destination of electronic mail;
- 15 a transmission data generating step of generating  
transmission data according to the message and the  
destination information, and adding reply destination  
information indicating a reply destination of the  
electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and
- 20 an electronic mail transmitting step of  
transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data  
generated in said transmission data generating step.

39. The status notifying method according to claim  
25 38, further comprising:

a data generating step of generating data which is  
a setting screen displayed on an external apparatus,

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and indicates a setting screen for setting the destination information and the reply destination information; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the data generated in said data generating step to the external apparatus.

40. The status notifying method according to claim 38 wherein,  
a reply address of electronic mail is stored in said storing step.

41. The status notifying method, according to claim 38 wherein  
said device is a printer.

42. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used for notification of status information of a device by electronic mail, said program directing a computer to perform:

an information holding step of holding setting information set for transmission of electronic mail containing a message in a natural language depending on status information about the device;  
a data generating step of generating data indicating a setting screen of the setting information displayed on an external apparatus; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the data generated in said data generating step to the external apparatus.

- 5           43. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used for notification of status information of a device by electronic mail, said program directing a computer to perform:

          a state information obtaining step of obtaining  
10 status information about a status of the device;

          a message obtaining step of obtaining a message according to the status information obtained in said state obtaining step:

          a storing step of storing destination information  
15 indicating a destination of an electronic mail;

          a transmission data generating step of generating transmission data according to the message and the destination information, and adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the  
20 electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and

          an electronic mail transmitting step of transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated in said transmission data generating step.

- 25           44. A program for notification of a status information of a device by electronic mail used to direct a computer to perform:

          an information holding step of holding setting

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information set for transmission of an electronic mail containing a message in a natural language depending on status information about the device;

- a data generating step of generating data
- 5 indicating a setting screen of the setting information displayed on an external apparatus; and
- a data transmitting step of transmitting the data generated in said data generating step to the external apparatus.

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45. A program for notification of a status information of a device by electronic mail used to direct a computer to perform:

- a state obtaining step of obtaining status
- 15 information about a status of the device;
- a message obtaining step of obtaining a message according to the status information obtained in said state obtaining step:
- a storing step of storing destination information
- 20 indicating a destination of electronic mail;
- a transmission generating step of generating transmission data according to the message and the destination information, and adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the
- 25 electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and
- an electronic mail transmitting step of transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated in said transmission data generating step.

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